

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 NEA-06 AF-04

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 /058 W

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R 031711Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2158

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13396

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IT, SA, TS

SUBJECT: SAUDI AND TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS TO VISIT ITALY

REF: ROME 13061

1. ON DECEMBER 3 RESPONSIBLE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL CONFIRMED LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAQQAF WOULD VISIT ROME DECEMBER 3-5, AND TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI WOULD BE IN ITALY DECEMBER 6-7.

2. ACCORDING SOURCE, SAQQAF IS SCHEDULED TO CALL ON PRESIDENT LEONE, AND WILL RECEIVE FULL RED CARPET TREATMENT ALTHOUGH HIS STOP IN ROME IS DESCRIBED AS "WORKING VISIT." OFFICIAL NOTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MORO MAY NOT RPT NOT BE IN ROME TO SEE SAQQAF BECAUSE OF EC BUSINESS, BUT SAUDI WILL BE RECEIVED BY FULL RANGE OF SENIOR ITALIAN OFFICIALS. SOURCE SAID HE HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH DRAWING UP LIST OF PRO-ARAB
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ITALIAN ACTIONS AS PREPARATION FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SAQQAF.

OFFICIAL REMARKED THAT ASIDE FROM ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER EC UMBRELLA, HE WAS HARD PUT TO COME UP WITH SIGNIFICANT PRO-ARAB MOVES ON PART OF GOI ALONE.

3. CONCERNING MASMOUDI VISIT, OFFICIAL SAID THAT ALTHOUGH MID EAST WOULD CERTAINLY FIGURE IN DISCUSSIONS, ITALIANS REGARDED VISIT, WHICH HAD BEEN ON AND OFF FOR A NUMBER OF MONTHS, AS PRIMARILY OCCASION TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES. VOLPE

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